

REMARKS

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated September 22, 2006. Claims 23-32 are pending with Claims 23 and 24 in independent form. No changes to the claims have been made by this Response. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,157 (Tai (who also is an inventor of the present application)), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,396,584 (Lee).

Applicants' Amendment dated June 29, 2006 included a Declaration from Dr. Tai that essentially stated, among other things, that an image generated according to the Tai Patent is a finalized image that would be harmed (as far as image quality is concerned) if subjected to an edge-modification process according to the teachings of the Lee Patent. In reply, the present Office Action states that the "Examiner does not believe that the effect posited by Dr. Tai [in his previous Declaration] would occur in the case of modifying the Tai patent in view of the edge enhancement teachings of Lee . . . since there are no jagged edges in figure A of the [previous] Declaration." See pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants submit herewith a Second Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 signed by Hwai T. Tai, an inventor of the present application and the cited Tai patent. This second Declaration provides additional explanations and illustrations, according to Dr. Tai, regarding how an image generated according to the Tai Patent would be harmed if subjected to an edge-modification process according to the teachings of the Lee Patent. In regard to the Examiner's comment about the edges in figure A of the previous declaration not being jagged, this second Declaration illustrates that an edge may appear smooth when viewed from a distance, but may actually be jagged when viewed up close.

In view of this second Declaration, Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have a motivation to combine the teachings of the Lee Patent with the teachings of the Tai Patent, because doing so would reduce the image quality of an image generated according to the teachings of the Tai Patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 52,118

Justin D. Petruzzelli/dn
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-726-7522
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.